

words which are not really words. This is not all, for not to speak ill, is not sufficient; we must speak well; and the best method of attaining to that is, to read the best authors with attention; and to observe how people of fashion speak, and those who express themselves best; for shopkeepers, common people, footmen, and maid-servants, all speak ill. They make use of low and vulgar expressions, which people of rank never use. In order to avoid all these faults we must read with care; observe the turn and expressions of the best authors, and not pass a word which we have the least doubt, without exactly inquiring the meaning of it;"¹ "He should likewise adorn what he says by proper metaphors, similes, and other figures of rhetoric; and he should enliven it, if he can, by quick and sprightly turns of wit;"² "As to the correctness and elegance of your writing, attention to grammar does the one, and to the best authors the other."³ Castiglione says of style and sentence structure, "sentences--fair, witty, subtle, fine, and grave, according to the matter."⁴ In similar thought, Chesterfield says, "seek always for the best words and the happiest expressions you can find. Do not content with being barely understood; but adorn your thoughts, and dress them as you would your person."⁵ "Bacon found this fault with the universities that they brought the student too young into the

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 38, Letter XVII.
 2. op. cit., p 41, Letter XLV.
 3. op. cit., p 333, Letter CCXXIX.
 4. The Courtier, p 52.
 5. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 285 f, Letter CCVII.